

DATE: November 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program Awards, 2003-04

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program is a federally funded program which provides grants to public and private higher education institutions and non-profit organizations. Administered in Tennessee by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, these grants are designed to conduct training for K-12 teachers, paraprofessionals and principals. Eligible subject areas include Mathematics, Science, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, Foreign Languages (including English as a Second Language) and related Arts. The Commission adopted a State plan and created an Advisory Committee to review grant proposals and make funding recommendations to the Commission. This year's Advisory Committee is listed on Attachment A.

The attached materials present the projects and funding levels recommended by the Advisory Committee. The recommended projects reflect those that provide maximum effectiveness in involvement of instructional effort for public and private K-12 schools in Tennessee.

As a method of soliciting proposals in direct alignment with Tennessee's K-12 needs, the Request for Proposals included special categories that could be integrated into a project's goals and objectives. This initiative highlights strategies for professional development. Another feature in this year's review process was a two-tiered competition which included the General Competition and a Capacity Building Competition. The Capacity Building Competition was included to encourage more sustained and time intensive professional development. It differed from the General Competition in three major ways; institutions could request up to \$150,000 over an 18 month period, the participants would receive at least 6 hours of graduate credit, and school administrator participation was mandatory. The General Competition was the same as in previous years with institutions being able to request up to \$75,000 over a 9-month period.

Seventy-nine proposals were submitted; of those, the Advisory Committee recommended funding for 21 projects totaling \$1,298,292.

In past years, there have been questions as to whether projects offering credit courses at public institutions will generate dollars through the funding formula. As in the past, such courses will be required to be designated as contract courses; thus, will not generate dollars under the formula.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED: A list of recommended institutions and funding levels is provided in Attachment B. The General Competition projects will be funded for the period December 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004. The grant review process is described on Attachment C to this agenda item.

OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE: All grant proposals are available for review at the Commission office.

ATTACHMENT A

2003-04

IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Bradley Windley
Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Ms. Iris Hubbard
Tennessee Department of Education

Dr. Linda Warner
Tennessee Board of Regents

Ms. Mary Ann Lewis
Tennessee Department of Education

Dr. Robert A. Levy
University of Tennessee

Ms. Linda Creek
Tennessee Department of Education

Dr. Thomas Broadhead
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Ms. Jennifer Nix
Tennessee Department of Education

Dr. Fred Heifner
Cumberland University

Ms. Judy Haston
Tennessee Department of Education

Dr. Claudia Joplin
University of Tennessee, Martin

Mr. Terrance Gibson
Tennessee Education Association

Dr. Vanita Lytle-Sherrill
Volunteer State Community College

Mr. William Arnold
Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Dr. Mary Jo Howland
State Board of Education

Dr. Dorothy Granberry
Tennessee State University

Ms. Linda Jordan
Tennessee Department of Education

**ATTACHMENT B
RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FOR 2003-2004**

PUBLIC FOUR YEAR INSTITUTIONS

<u>East Tennessee State University</u> \$72,515 “East Tennessee Autism Training Project (ETATP)”	Dr. Clarissa Willis
<u>East Tennessee State University</u> \$72,840 “Improving Middle and High Science Teaching Quality in Four Rural School Districts in Northeast Tennessee”	Dr. Jack Rhoton
<u>East Tennessee State University</u> \$32,618 “Reading Improvement and Language Diversity”	Dr. Rosalind R. Gann
<u>Middle Tennessee State University</u> \$72,947 “The Academy for Teachers of the Gifted 2004”	Dr. Bella Higdon
<u>Middle Tennessee State University</u> \$67,956 “Powers of Ten: Number Sense through Algebra, Astronomy, Biology and Finance”	Dr. Dovie L. Kimmins
<u>Middle Tennessee State University</u> \$21,078 “Primary Physical Science in Tennessee (PPS in TN)”	Dr. Paul Lee
<u>Tennessee Technological University</u> \$72,968 “Teaching Reading Across Literature and Social Studies in Grades 7-10”	Dr. Sue Ellen Alfred
<u>University of Memphis</u> \$114,000 “Math, Assistive Technology, and Reading (MATR): Enhancing Teaching Effectiveness in Inclusive Classrooms”	Dr. Sandra Cooley-Nichols
<u>University of Tennessee, Chattanooga</u> \$45,897 “Curriculum Development and Content-Area Workshop for Middle School Teachers of Earth Science in Southeastern Tennessee”	Dr. Ann E. Holmes
<u>University of Tennessee, Chattanooga</u> \$62,597 “Using Non-Fiction to Build Critical Literacy”	Dr. Jennifer Beech

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Dr. Ossama A. Saleh
\$70,831
“Applications of Algebra, III”

University of Tennessee, Knoxville Dr. Alan Hazari
\$52,487
“Inquiry-Based Physical Science @ Grades 5-8 Levels”

University of Tennessee, Knoxville Dr. Kathleen S. Puckett
\$72,630
“Project Access: Using Assistive Technology to Access Content Area Literacy in Special Education”

University of Tennessee, Knoxville Dr. R. N. Trigianop
\$72,769
“Teaching Molecular Biology/Genetics and Biotechnology in High School Classrooms”

University of Tennessee, Knoxville Dr. Susan E. Riechert
\$70,000
“Biology in a Box: A Student-Active Learning Project”

University of Tennessee, Martin Dr. Cahit Erkal
\$53,660
“Activity Based Physics and Astronomy Summer Institute for Middle and Junior-High School Teachers: Year Two”

University of Tennessee, Martin Ms. Barbara Hutcherson
\$40,023
“The Highly Qualified Middle School English Teacher Summer Institute”

PRIVATE FOUR YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Freed-Hardeman University Dr. John Sweeney
\$77,807
“Capacity Training for Teachers of Special Needs Inclusion Students”

Milligan College Dr. Beverly Schmalzried
\$72,911
“Improving Teacher Quality in Selected Carter County, Tennessee Schools”

TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Volunteer State Community College Dr. Umadevi Garimella
\$63,265
“Science Institute: A Bridge Between Middle and High School”

Walters State Community College Dr. Lee Dell’Isola
\$17,000
“Exploring Mathematical Concepts through Problem Solving and Manipulatives (A K-4th Grade Project)”

ATTACHMENT C

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

Upon receipt by THEC, proposals were reviewed to determine if all required materials were included and if the proposal responded to the federal program requirements. Incomplete proposals, late proposals, proposals not addressing identified grant program needs, and proposals from ineligible applicants were excluded from the grant review. Proposal writers were notified by postcard as to whether THEC received the proposal and whether it was sent to reviewers.

The grant review panel was divided into 5 teams. Each proposal was assigned a lead discussant. The lead discussant was responsible for: giving a careful 2-5 minute overview of the entire project without offering any personal opinions and the lead discussant served as the moderator of the discussion concerning that proposal including helping the panel arrive at a consensus based on the criteria.

PROCESS

Team 1

Lead discussant 1 – Proposal 1

- 2 –5 minute description of project (without opinion)
- 5-10 minute discussion of all team members that read proposal (opinions allowed)
- 2-5 minute discussion including all panelists who have questions or opinions
- Vote to place proposal in one of three categories: Do not fund, Fund, or Fund based on conditions;
- The numeric ratings were considered in breaking ties later in the review process.

These steps were repeated for the remaining proposals of each lead discussant.

These steps were repeated for Teams 2, 3, 4 and 5 until all proposals were reviewed.